

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 01270 081258Z

ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

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E.O. 11652: N/A DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT

TAGS: AFSP, PDIP, MI

SUBJECT: CUSTOMS AND TAX LIABILITIES FOR FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL

REF: STATE 177448

1. PER REFTEL, STAFF PERSONNEL DO NOT RECEIVE THE SAME
CUSTOMS AND DUTY-FREE PRIVILEGES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

A) STAFF ALLOWED DUTY-FREE IMPORTATION OF PERSONAL AND
HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS ONLY VS. WHOLE
TOUR FOR THOSE ON DIPLOMATIC LIST.

B) STAFF PERSONNEL ARE NOT RPT NOT ENTITLED BY MALAWI
LAW TO DUTY-FREE PURCHASES OF CIGARETTES, LIQUOR AND
GASOLINE.

C) PERSONNEL NOT ON DIPLOMATIC LIST MUST PAY ALL FEES
APPLICABLE ON THE OPERATION OF PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES
EXCEPT FOR IMPORT DUTIES AS OUTLINED IN PARA 1(A).

2. DIFFERENCES IN TREATMENT OUTLINED IN PARA 1(A) ABOVE
HAVE POSED LITTLE DIFFICULTIES OR EXPENSE TO EMBASSY
PERSONNEL. DUTY-FREE PURCHASE ORDERS ARE COMPILED WITHIN
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THE EMBASSY AND SIGNED BY ADMIN OFFICER. THESE PURCHASES IN-
CLUDE ORDERS FROM STAFF PERSONNEL. ALTHOUGH NON-DIPLOMATIC
LIST EMPLOYEES CAN BUY DUTY-FREE GASOLINE AT THE EMBASSY
DURING WORKING HOURS, THEY MUST PAY TAX (ABOUT 40 CENTS
PER GAL) FROM WHICH DIPLOMATIC LIST ARE EXEMPTED WHEN
BUYING GAS AT OUTSIDE SOURCES.

3. GREATEST EXPENSE FOR STAFF EMPLOYEES WHICH EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO ALLEVIATE RESULTS FROM MALAWI'S MOTOR VEHICLE AND ROAD TAXES. NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL APY APPROXIMATELY US\$65 DURING A TWO YEAR TOUR WHILE DIPLOMATIC LIST ARE NOT LIABLE. ALSO, STAFF NOT ENTITLED TO DIPLOMATIC LICENSE PLATES. THESE VEHICLE TAXES ARE PART O MALAWI LAW WHICH EMBASSY HAS LITTLE HOPE OF CHANGING.

4. ALL OF THE ABOVE DIFFERENCES HAVE HAD ONLY MINOR ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE WELFARE OF STAFF PERSONNEL. FINANCIALLY, THEY COST NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL US\$50 - 70 EACH YEAR. STEVENSON

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